



Broadview

GREEN GRID

FEBRUARY 2004

WELCOME

Since you received our last newsletter, good progress was made on Palatine and Phinney Avenues N. The contractor excavated the ponds, installed all the pipes and catch basins, and is now placing amended soils to fill the ponds to their proper size. We have experienced some significant weather delays over the past two months. Working with the amended soils has been a challenge in the wet and cold weather. As mentioned in previous newsletters, amended soils cannot be placed when it's wet because saturated conditions remove the soil air spaces that are essential for the Natural Drainage System to work properly. In addition, the soils cannot be worked in freezing temperatures. However, we're hopeful that the road edge definition, sidewalks and new pavement on Phinney and Palatine Avenues N will be complete in February. In addition, construction on 1st Ave NW could begin as early as mid-February.



By the time the next newsletter comes along, the days will be getting longer, the sun a little stronger, and the bulbs will start pushing out of the ground. Think spring! As always, don't hesitate to call or send me an email if you have any questions.

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News You Can Use: Construction Checklist

- ✓ Parking restrictions will be posted on streets under construction.
- ✓ Construction on 1st Ave. NW could begin as early as mid-February.
- ✓ If an emergency situation develops on the project during non-working hours, call 911. In a non-emergency situation, call SPU's Operations Control Center at (206) 386-1230.

SPOTLIGHT

Planting has started – What does this mean for you?

In December 2003, Seattle Conservation Corps (SCC) crews began planting trees along 2nd Ave. NW, followed by the placement of shrubs and perennials. Although the SCC crews will check on the plants during the first year, keeping the plants alive and maintaining the landscape will be up to you. The planting areas in natural drainage systems are considered to be like any other planting strip or shoulder area in the City, where residents are responsible for maintaining them. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) will maintain the functioning of the drainage system, but how the system "looks" will be up to you.

Most of the plants chosen for this project are considered "low maintenance," but that doesn't mean "no maintenance." During the first three years, the plants will need some nurturing, such as watering and weeding. To make things a little easier on you, SPU is developing a detailed landscape maintenance schedule. This maintenance schedule will be an easy and clear guide that includes tips on how to maintain your landscape for best results. The schedule will be sent to you later this year, as part of a "Natural Drainage System Home Owner's Guide."

NEIGHBORHOOD FEEDBACK

What to do about parking on the sidewalk?

We have heard from several of you regarding vehicles parked across the sidewalk on 2nd Avenue NW. It is important to keep the sidewalks open at all times for pedestrian access and to accommodate emergency vehicle access. The sidewalks are purposely placed adjacent to the street with a mountable curb to allow access for emergency vehicles if needed. So please remember, and let your visitors know, that it is illegal to park on sidewalks or walkways.

Several of you also inquired about "No Parking" signs. Seattle Department of Transportation is currently evaluating the need for them. "No Parking" signs may become necessary, but we would like to avoid a cluttered streetscape if possible.

Construction reminder

On street parking is allowed outside of construction hours, on weekends, and on holidays. The job site is secured at the end of each work day and known hazards are removed or identified. However, please continue to be mindful that this is an active construction zone. Be on the alert for hazards and inform your visitors likewise.

Community tip: maintaining the system together

You have all heard the old adage, "many hands make light work." To take care of the vegetation maintenance, it may be helpful to form a block group, or nominate rotating block captains. For example, your block could schedule quarterly work parties to weed, prune, mulch, and pick up litter. The block group could also "adopt" the properties that need a little extra attention, such as those of elderly and disabled owners who might have difficulty in personally maintaining it. Block captains will make future communication easier between your neighborhood and the City. Plus, it's a fun way to get to know your neighbors! In turn, the City supports block groups by picking up bags of litter from the planted areas, and providing mulch and landscaping advice.

Later this year, SPU will send you a home owner's maintenance guide with more information about the City's neighborhood programs, SPU's maintenance responsibilities, and additional "tips" on how to maintain the system together.

For more information on the City of Seattle's Natural Drainage Systems Project, please visit our website at: www.seattle.gov/util/naturalsystems/



City of Seattle

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